

Division of Behavioral Health Services

Office of the Deputy Director

150 North 18th Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 364-4558
(602) 364-4570 FAX
Internet: www.hs.state.az.us/bhs

JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR
CATHERINE R. EDEN, DIRECTOR

TO: RBHA and TRBHA Medical Directors and Clinical Leadership

FROM: Jerry L. Dennis, M.D.
ADHS/DBHS Medical Director

Dan Wendt,
ADHS/DBHS Policy Office Manager

SUBJECT: POLICY CLARIFICATION: INTER-RBHA COORDINATION OF SERVICES

DATE: November 5, 2003

This memorandum is intended to clarify requirements of the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) and the Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHAs) to ensure the coordination of services to persons receiving behavioral health treatment in an inpatient facility.

The Department articulates coordination of services requirements within ADHS/DBHS Policy 2.2, Inter-RBHA Coordination of Services. The policy requires that in crisis situations, needed services shall be provided without regard to the person's enrollment status. The T/RBHA at which a person presents for crisis services shall provide needed crisis services.

The Department expects T/RBHAs receiving referrals for hospitalized persons from another Geographic Service Area to immediately coordinate the referral with the home T/RBHA. The home T/RBHA may choose to negotiate an agreement to conduct the evaluation with the out-of-area T/RBHA, or may elect to dispatch their own evaluation staff.

If the person is not enrolled with a T/RBHA, lives outside of the service area, and requires services other than crisis or urgent responses secondary to an inpatient hospitalization, the T/RBHA shall notify the home T/RBHA associated with the person's residence within 24 hours of the person's presentation. The home T/RBHA shall proceed with the person's enrollment if determined eligible for services. The home T/RBHA is responsible for the provision of any medically necessary covered services including transportation services for eligible persons.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Dr. Jerry Dennis at (602) 364-4755 or Dan Wendt at (602) 364-4660.

C: Leslie Schwalbe
Dr. Ray Lederman
Suzanne Rabideau
Mike Franczak
Christy Dye
Martha Castaneda
Tom Klemko
Robin Trush
Vicki Staples

Terri Speaks
Merv Lynch
Diane Somerville, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System